

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-12 EUR-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-02 DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 DOEE-00
NRC-07 /176 W

-----104982 142007Z /50

P 141717Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7189
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: CCD: FINAL REPORT OF THE SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP,
U.S. STATEMENT, MARCH 14, 1978

1. THE FINAL REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC
EXPERTS TO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEASURES TO
DETECT AND IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS (CD/558) WAS CIRCULA-
TED FOR CCD CONSIDERATION DURING MARCH 14 PLENARY. FOLLOW-
ING SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY SWEDISH AND NETHERLANDS
DELS, AMBASSADOR FISHER (U.S. REP) MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT
COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP AND ENDORSING THE
FINAL REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENTAL
EXERCISE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE
SYSTEM.

2. TEXT OF AMBASSADOR FISHER'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: MR. CHAIRMAN: TODAY WE HAVE BEFORE US THE
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REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO CONSID-
ER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE MEASURES TO DETECT AND TO
IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS.

THIS AD HOC GROUP WAS FORMED PURSUANT TO THE DECISION
OF THIS CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT AT ITS
714TH MEETING OF JULY 22, 1976. THAT DECISION INDICATED

THAT THE GROUP SHOULD SEEK TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS IN ITS REPORT BUT POINTED OUT THAT, WHENEVER CONSENSUS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED, EACH EXPERT WILL BE ENTITLED TO INCORPORATE HIS OWN VIEWS. THE U.S. CONSIDERS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT THE LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AND, CORRESPONDINGLY, DID NOT CONTAIN ANY EXPRESSION OF SEPARATE VIEWS.

ANY CONSENSUS DOCUMENT, OF NECESSITY, INVOLVES GIVE AND TAKE ON THE PART OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN ITS PREPARATION. IT IS, THEREFORE, PROBABLY TRUE THAT HAD ANY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE AD HOC GROUP HAD SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TEXT, IT WOULD HAVE READ SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM THE TEXT WE HAVE BEFORE US. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED TO NOTE THAT EXPERTS REPRESENTING VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND WITH DIVERSE SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE COMPLICATED FIELD OF SEISMOLOGY COULD FIND THE WIDE AREA OF COMMON OPINION DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT. THE FACT THAT MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP WERE ABLE TO DO SO REFLECTS THE SERIOUS AND CONSCIENTIOUS MANNER IN WHICH THEY HANDLED THEIR TASK. I AM SURE THAT OTHER REPRESENTATIVES ON THIS COMMITTEE WILL WANT TO JOIN ME IN COMMENDING THE AD HOC GROUP FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

THE REPORT DESCRIBES VARIOUS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DETECTING, LOCATING, AND IDENTIFYING SEISMIC EVENTS. THE TERM "IDENTIFYING," OF COURSE, MEANS DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN SEISMIC EVENTS WHICH ARE OF NATURAL ORIGIN AND SEISMIC EVENTS THAT ARE MAN-MADE, PARTICULARLY SEISMIC EVENTS PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

THIS MEANS THAT THE REPORT SHOULD BE READ IN THE CONTEXT OF A POSSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE REPORT ASSESSES THE ADEQUACY OF ANY SYSTEM OF EXCHANGING SEISMIC DATA FOR THE PURPOSE OF VERIFYING A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC GROUP SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED IT NOT TO DO SO. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE REPORT SHOULD PROVIDE ANALYSES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE WHICH COULD ASSIST GOVERNMENTS IN DETERMINING WHETHER A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR OVERALL NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE REPORT DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL ELEMENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF STATIONS WHICH WOULD CONTINUOUSLY AND RAPIDLY EXCHANGE COLLECTED SEISMIC DATA. IT DESCRIBES NEW INTERNATIONAL DATA CENTERS

WHICH WOULD ANALYZE DATA FROM ALL NATIONAL STATIONS AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO ALL OF THEIR FACILITIES DESIGNATED AS INTERNATIONAL. THE ROLE OF THESE CENTERS WOULD BE TO DETECT AND LOCATE SEISMIC EVENTS AND TO ASSOCIATE WITH THESE EVENTS REPORTED DATA RELEVANT TO THEIR IDENTIFICATION.

THE GROUP OF EXPERTS HAS PROVIDED US WITH A REALISTIC PICTURE OF SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE NETWORK BY CONSIDERING EXISTING AND PLANNED SEISMOGRAPHIC STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT EITHER AVAILABLE AT THOSE FACILITIES OR WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED WITHIN CURRENT TECHNOLOGY. A KEY

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PA-02 DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 DOEE-00
NRC-07 /176 W

-----105755 142006Z /50

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE GROUP HAS BEEN THE USE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION.

WE MUST, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT THE EXPERTS CAUTION THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE WILL REQUIRE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES THAT MAY BE EXPENSIVE, AND WILL CERTAINLY INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS TO THE ROUTINE OPERATIONS EXECUTED PRESENTLY. FURTHER, THE CAPABILITY ESTIMATES IN THE REPORT HAVE BEEN MADE IN ALL CASES ON THE BASIS OF THEORETICAL ANALYSES AND ASSUMPTIONS. THESE ESTIMATES CAN ONLY

BE CONFIRMED BY EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES.

THE GROUP HAS RECOMMENDED THAT AN EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISE BE CONDUCTED TO TEST THE SYSTEM IT HAS DESCRIBED. THIS SEEMS TO US, GENERALLY, TO FOLLOW A SOUND SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND, SPECIFICALLY, TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS DEVELOPED
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IN THE REPORT. IN GENERAL, WHEN A NEW TECHNICAL CONCEPT IS INTRODUCED IT IS USUALLY INVESTIGATED THEORETICALLY AND THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES FROM IT ARE SET DOWN ON PAPER. THE REPORT DOES THIS. THEN A MODEL IS MADE OR A LABORATORY EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED TO SEE IF THE THEORY WAS CORRECT AND TO POINT TO ANY DEFICIENCIES IN THE MODEL. CORRECTIVE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BEFORE THE NEW CONCEPT IS PUT INTO GENERAL USE. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THIS.

THERE ARE PARTICULAR REASONS WHY THIS GENERALLY-ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC METHOD SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN THIS CASE. THE REPORT HAS MADE AN ESTIMATE OF THE CAPABILITY OF VARIOUS NETWORKS TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS. IT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN A THEORETICAL ESTIMATE. THE ACTUAL RESULTS TO DATE, BASED ON DATA OBTAINED FROM THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC CENTER NOW EXISTING, THE ISC IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, DIFFER APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MAGNITUDE UNITS FROM THE THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS MADE IN THIS REPORT.

FOR TWO UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS DETONATED UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS, THIS DIFFERENCE CORRESPONDS TO APPROXIMATELY A FACTOR OF THREE IN YIELD. THIS LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BUILD ON THE THEORETICAL ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS' REPORT BY CONDUCTING AN ACTUAL EXPERIMENT INVOLVING DATA EXCHANGE AND EVALUATION OF THE TYPE THAT THIS REPORT ENVISAGES. FOR THESE REASONS THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC EXPERTS' GROUP AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS IN THE PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT OF THE EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISE RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SEISMOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, CONSULTANTS, SPEECHES, TEXTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA03964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780113-0947
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaacjcg.tel
Line Count: 212
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 98f1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3344137
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: FINAL REPORT OF THE SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP, U.S. STATEMENT, MARCH 14, 1978
TAGS: PARM, US, CCD, (FISHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98f1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014